

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 273503

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOL REPEAT USUN 5930 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO SEOUL TOKYO
DEC 13, 1974

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 5930

EXDIS

DEPT PASS CINCPAC FOR ASS'T SECRETARY HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UN, KS, KN

SUBJECT: KOREA IN 29TH GA: REQUEST FOR AUTHORITY TO DISCUSS
PLENARY CONSENSUS

SUMMARY: ACTION REQUESTED: THIS MESSAGE REQUESTS IMMEDIATE
AUTHORIZATION TO DISCUSS AT 10:30 A.M. FRIDAY MEETING OF
KOREAN WORKING GROUP A WAY OUT OF DILEMMA POSED BY OUR
INABILITY TO MUSTER NECESSARY TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY FOR ADOPTION
OF FRIENDLY RESOLUTION. END SUMMARY.

1. DETAILS. WE CANNOT OBTAIN A TWO-THIRDS MAJORITY IN PLENARY
FOR FRIENDLY RESOLUTION ON KOREA THAT HAS BEEN REPORTED
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OUT BY FIRST COMMITTEE. WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED THAT PRESSING

RESOLUTION TO VOTE WILL LEAD TO PRESIDENT BOUTEFLIKA'S ANNOUNCING THAT IT HAS BEEN ADOPTED EVEN THOUGH, BECAUSE OF HOSTILE GROUP NEGATIVE VOTES, IT HAS OBTAINED LESS THAN TWO-THIRDS. OUR CONCERN IS THREEFOLD: (A) THE PRECEDENT CREATED BY CONSIDERING A GA RECOMMENDATION ON KOREA ADOPTED BY A MERE SIMPLE MAJORITY IS ALMOST CERTAIN TO ENSURE ADOPTION OF A HOSTILE RESOLUTION NEXT YEAR; THIS YEAR THE HOSTILE TEXT LOST ONLY BECAUSE OF TIE VOTE IN FIRST COMMITTEE. (B) ANY KOREAN RESOLUTION REQUIRES A TWO-THIRDS VOTE UNDER CHARTER BECAUSE IT INVOLVES A "RECOMMENDATION WITH RESPECT TO THE MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY" (ART.18, PARA 2). IF NO OTHER COUNTRY INVOKES THIS CHARTER REQUIREMENT, THE US SHOULD DO SO BECAUSE, ACROSS THE BOARD, HEIGHTENED SPECIAL MAJORITY REQUIREMENT ON PEACE AND SECURITY, BUDGETARY AND OTHER ESSENTIAL ISSUES DEALT WITH BY ART 18 IS ONE OF FEW MEASURES FOR PROTECTION OF US INTERESTS IN VETO-FREE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. (C) AT A TIME WHEN WE ARE LEADING A RENEWED FOCUS ON CONCILIATION AND LEGALITY IN UN SYSTEM, OUR CLOSING OUR EYES TO THIS PROTECTIVE CHARTER REQUIREMENT IS, FROM THIS VANTAGE, INCONSISTENT WITH CONTINUING NATIONAL INTERESTS.

2. WE RECOGNIZE THE MERIT OF AMB BUFFUM'S POINT TO FOREIGN MINISTER KIM THAT SOME OF OUR FRIENDS COULD BE SERIOUSLY DISCOMFITED BY OUR RAISING TWO-THIRDS REQUIREMENT FROM FLOOR. FOR THIS REASON, WE HAVE CONSIDERED POSSIBILITY OF LETTING FRIENDLY RESOLUTION COME TO VOTE, SHOWING OUR VOTING STRENGTH OF SUBSTANTIALLY MORE THAN A MAJORITY BUT LESS THAN TWO-THIRDS, AND THEN, ON POINT OF ORDER, SAYING WE CONSIDER ASSEMBLY HAS NOT REPEAT NOT ADOPTED RESOLUTION BECAUSE OF ART 18 (2). WE BELIEVE ON BALANCE THAT WE SHOULD SEEK WAY TO FINESSE THIS ISSUE.

3. AN ALTERNATIVE WE WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT TO KOREAN "INNER CORE" WORKING GROUP FRIDAY A.M. WOULD BE AS FOLLOWS: WORKING THROUGH FIRST COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN ORTIZ DE ROZAS OR ONE OF OUR GROUP SUCH AS NETHERLANDS AMB KAUFMAN, WE WOULD PROPOSE TO OTHER SIDE A BRIEF AND SIMPLE PROCEDURAL CONSENSUS BY WHICH ASSEMBLY WOULD REAFFIRM KOREAN CONSENSUS IT ADOPTED IN NOVEMBER 1973 AND TAKE NOTE OF CURRENT FIRST COMMITTEE REPORT CONTAINING FRIENDLY RESOLUTION. TEXT OF THIS DECISION
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COULD READ ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

QUOTE: AT ITS ----- PLENARY MEETING ON 17 DECEMBER 1974, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY RECALLED THE CONSENSUS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ASSEMBLY ON THE QUESTION OF KOREA, ADOPTED ON 28 NOVEMBER 1973, AND TOOK NOTE OF THE REPORT OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE ON THE QUESTION OF KOREA CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT ---- OF ----- DECEMBER 1974. UNQUOTE.

IF WORKING GROUP AGREES, ORTIZ OR OUR OTHER SPOKESMAN WOULD MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS TO HOSTILE GROUP IN PRESENTING THIS TEXT: (A) THROUGHOUT THIS SESSION WE HAVE SAID WE DID NOT WANT A CONTENTIOUS DEBATE, OR INDEED ANY DEBATE, ON KOREA; (B) ALTHOUGH WE REGARD THE FIRST COMMITTEE RESOLUTION AS CONCILIATORY AND NOT PARTISAN, WE RECOGNIZE STRONG ATTITUDES WHICH IT ENDANGERS; (C) WITH A VIEW TO ACTING IN GOOD SPIRIT OF 1973 GA CONSENSUS ON KOREA, WE WOULD BE WILLING TO CONSIDER QUOTED CONSENSUS DECISION, WHICH SHOULD HAVE APPEAL FOR ALL SIDES; (D) THIS SHOULD BE ACCEPTED UNANIMOUSLY OR ON A CONSENT OR NO-OBJECTION BASIS.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: THE SHORTNESS OF TIME REMAINING BEFORE PLENARY CONSIDERATION REQUIRES THAT ANY SUCH MOVE BE MADE DURING COURSE OF FRIDAY. WE THEREFORE REQUEST AUTHORITY TO DISCUSS THIS OPTION AT THE (ALREADY SCHEDULED) 10:30 A.M. WORKING GROUP MEETING IN WHICH THE ROK, PHILIPPINES, NEW ZEALAND, THAILAND, UK, CANADA AND NETHERLANDS PARTICIPATE. FROM DISCUSSION EARLIER THIS WEEK, WE EXPECT, IN ANY EVENT, THAT OTHERS WILL RAISE AND SEEK CORE GROUP DECISION ON IMPORTANT QUESTION ISSUE.

5. CURRENT INTENTIONS OF HOSTILE CORE GROUP ARE NOT CLEAR. WE HAVE CONFLICTING REPORTS AS TO WHETHER THEY INTEND TO INTRODUCE THEIR RESOLUTION IN PLENARY. THEY HAVE NOT DONE SO AS OF THURSDAY EVENING. (IN MEANWHILE, DANISH AND SWEDISH MISOFFS HAVE DRAFTED DETAILED RESOLUTION WHICH THEY HAVE PRESENTED TO THEIR ALGERIAN AND CHINESE COUNTERPARTS AS POSSIBLE COMPROMISE BUT THEY HAVE NOT RECEIVED ANY ENCOURAGEMENT.)
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